

Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("____") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("~~_____~~") or brackets ("[[]]"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently amended) A method for enabling electronic document ratification, the method comprising:

receiving with a printing device an unmodifiable document ~~with a document receiving device~~;

collecting with the printing device handwritten content from a recipient of the document; and

the printing device adding data reflective of the handwritten content to the document without replacing original content of the document.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an unmodifiable document comprises receiving an unmodifiable document with a multi-function peripheral (MFP) device configured to print, copy, scan, and transmit documents.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an unmodifiable document comprises the printing device receiving a PDF file.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an unmodifiable document comprises the printing device receiving a file containing ~~scanned data~~ that resulted from scanning a hard copy document.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein collecting handwritten content comprises the printing device scanning handwritten content using ~~the document-receiving device~~ manually handwritten on a printout of the received unmodifiable document by the recipient.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein scanning handwritten content comprises the printing device only scanning the manually handwritten content.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein only scanning the manually handwritten content ~~that was manually added~~ comprises the printing device only scanning handwritten content contained within an input block of the document.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein scanning handwritten content comprises the printing device scanning an entire printout of the document and comparing data obtained through the scanning with data of the received unmodifiable document.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein collecting handwritten content comprises the printing device collecting handwritten marks manually entered by the recipient in a ~~handwriting input device~~ touch-sensitive screen of the ~~document-receiving~~ printing device.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein adding data comprises the printing device adding data within an input block of the unmodifiable document.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising at least one of the printing device printing the document after the data has been added, transmitting the document after the data has been added, and storing the document after the data has been added.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising a sending device sending an unmodifiable document to the ~~document-receiving~~ printing device.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the sending device identifying an input block of the unmodifiable document prior to sending the unmodifiable document.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the sending device adding metadata to the unmodifiable document that identifies that the document is to be ratified.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the sending device adding metadata to the unmodifiable document that identifies a location of an input block of the document.

17. (Currently amended) A system for enabling electronic document ratification, the system comprising:

~~means for transmitting~~ a sending device configured to transmit an unmodifiable document; and

~~means for receiving~~ a printing device configured to receive the transmitted document~~[[.]].~~ ~~means for collecting~~ to collect handwritten content from a recipient of the document~~[[.]].~~ and ~~means for adding~~ to add data reflective of the handwritten content to the document without replacing original content of the document.

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the ~~means for transmitting comprise~~ printing device comprises at least one of a digital sender and a multi-function peripheral (MFP) device.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the means for receiving comprise printing device comprises a multi-function peripheral (MFP) device configured to print, copy, scan, and transmit documents.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the means for collecting handwritten content comprise printing device comprises a document scanner.

21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 20, further comprising means for controlling the document scanner wherein the printing device is configured to only scan the handwritten content.

22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 20, further comprising means for comparing wherein the printing device is configured to compare scanned data with data of the transmitted document.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the means for collecting handwritten content comprise printing device comprises a handwriting input device of a document receiving device that received the document touch-sensitive screen in which the recipient can manually enter the handwritten content.

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the means for adding data comprise printing device comprises means for adding data within an input block of the document.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, ~~further comprising wherein~~
the sending device comprises means for adding metadata to the unmodifiable
document that identifies at least one of that the document is to be ratified and a location
of an input block of the document.

26-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) A ~~document-receiving~~ printing device, comprising:
a processor; and
a touch-sensitive screen configured to receive manually handwritten content
entered into the touch-sensitive screen with a stylus; and

memory including a document ratification manager that is configured to receive
an unmodifiable document, to collect handwritten content from a recipient of the
document using the touch-sensitive screen, and to add data reflective of the
handwritten content to the document without replacing original content of the document.

36-38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently amended) The printing device of claim 35, wherein the
document ratification manager is configured to add the data within an input block of the
unmodifiable document.

40. (New) A printing device, comprising:
a processor;
a scanner configured to scan documents containing handwritten content; and
memory including a document ratification manager that is configured to receive an unmodifiable document, to collect handwritten content from a recipient of the document using the scanner, and to add data reflective of the handwritten content to the document without replacing original content of the document.

41. (New) The printing device of claim 40, wherein the document ratification manager is configured to add the data within an input block of the unmodifiable document.